(b) whether it is a fact that the distributors are purchasing antibiotics at very low rates from PSUs and supplying them to Government hospitals at the rate contracts offered by the PSUs;

(c) whether Government's directive on purchasing antibiotics only from PSUs violates and Andhra Pradesh High Court order; and

(d) if the answers to above parts be in the affirmative, the action Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Implementation of NAIS

*355. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States and Union Territories where National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is not implemented and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details regarding the premium income the claims settled and the farmers benefited during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 till today;

(c) whether it is a fact that many past claims of Gujarat and Maharashtra have not been settled till today inspite of many representations;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the rate of premium on cotton is very high compared to other items; and

(e) the details of items covered under the scheme and the future plans to expand the areas and cover more items especially in drought prone States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which was introduced in rabi 1999-2000 is not being implemented by Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Dadra &

Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep on account of various reasons including availability of assured irrigation, relative stable crops production, financial constraints, and non availability of past yield data.

(b) Details of premium income generated, claims settled and farmers benefited under NAIS during last three years are given as under:—

Years	Premium Income (Rs. in crores)	Claims Settled (Rs. in crores)	Farmers Benefited
2003-04	347.38	1139.71	3777311
2004-05	534.77	855.94	2904785
2005-06*	446.38	Not available	Not available

* Payable claims for 2005-06 are yet to be worked out/settled by the Implementing Agency.

(c) As per available information all admissible claims up to 2004-05 for Gujarat and Maharashtra States have been settled, except that some claims of groundnut crop pertaining Kharif 2004 are pending on account of investigation study conducted by an external agency.

(d) Cotton being a commercial crop and actuarial rate of premium is charged. These rates may vary from year to year and from State to State keeping in view the variability in the yield. The premium rates on cotton in Gujarat have been increased during the last few crop seasons, due to fluctuations in the past yield data.

(e) NAIS, at present is available to all the farmers *i.e.* both for loanee and non-loanee farmers. It covers all food crops (cereals, millets, pulses) oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years. In order to make improvements and to enhance the coverage of the scheme, a Joint Group was constituted to study the improvements required in the existing scheme. The Joint Group has submitted its report and have given a number of recommendations which *inter alia* include reduction in the unit area of insurance, improvement in the calculation of threshold yield, higher indemnity level, coverage of pre-sowing/post-harvest losses and perennial horticultural crops, etc. Keeping in view the recommendaitons of the Joint Group, the Government, at present, is in the process of reviewing NAIS.